

# 310 Dispatch

Never again shall a veteran coming home from battle be made to feel alone and unappreciated!



*Together We Make  
A Difference*

*Charles S. Kettles  
Chapter 310*



**August 2023,  
Washtenaw County,  
Michigan**



**Editor's Note:** A small but illustrious team comes together every month to bring about our monthly 310 Dispatch. What inspires us is the certainty that our Dispatch is a vehicle for connecting our experiences of the past with our service of the present. In the past, every service member was a brother or a sister, and we endeavored to make sure no one was left behind. It was a sacred commitment. That pledge endures today, making, out of many, one. Remember the Pig Roast planning: 14 August, 1500 hrs, Saline Legion Post 322. -- Paulo-Juarez Pereira, Editor

## What's New at VVA 310 . . .

<i>President's August Message</i> . . . . .	2
<i>August 2023 Chaplain's Corner.</i> . . . .	2
<i>Honoring August Anniversaries on the Wall</i> . . . . .	3
<i>Current Events, Dispatch Recipients</i> . . . . .	4
<i>VVA 310 Chapter Meeting Minutes - 13 July 2023</i> . . . . .	5
<i>AVVA Newsletter for August 2023.</i> . . . .	6
<i>Remembering Gary Lillie -- My Squad</i> . . . . .	8
<i>Jocosity</i> . . . . .	9
<i>Celebrating the Vet Fest 2023.</i> . . . .	10
<i>Veterans Family Health Issues</i> . . . . .	11
<i>All About VVA 310</i> . . . . .	12

# President's Report, August 2023

By Vance McCrumb



Stan Harrison, Dave Draper, Rev. Bull, and I attended several Vet Fest meetings for the Vet Fest event held on the 22nd July. Stan and his merchandise team

were handling sales. I am not going to mention his crew because I know I'd forget someone. Not sure what the overall Vets Fest attendance was, but it was less than last year. The Army National Guard brought in a Chinook. Visitors were able to sit in the web-seats and question the crew. The rotor wash from that puppy was huge! (Click on image to view flight.)

I had a phone conversation with a Chapter member who had a cataract surgery meeting with his eye physician at the VA. Sounds like something I'll have in the future as my last eye exam indicated the beginnings of cataracts. Maybe that's why I wanted to do the Pledge twice at our last meeting? That's my story and I'm sticking to it!

I attended the VVA Michigan State Council meeting in Waterford with Tim and Kathy Driscoll and Sandie Wilson on July 23rd. Some of the items discussed were:

- Michigan had an increase of .8% in membership.
- Eight hundred and fifty-six delegates registered for the convention, and they anticipate that total to increase to 900.
  - Hot on the minds of many is the future of VVA.
- The convention hotel had 600 rooms reserved and are now sold out. There is an additional hotel for the overflow.
- State Council President John Riling advised that National is planning on up to three more conventions, and the tentative closing of VVA is February 2028. This may be voted on at the convention this year, and that date is fluid.

VVA's Vice President Tom Burke was in attendance

and fielded many questions about the future of VVA and the resolutions that will be voted on this year. I've asked John Riling to attend a future Chapter meeting and discuss what the Council's and Chapter's future options are. Yes, we've had many discussions on this topic, and it has been fully researched by Luker and his team. It would still be nice to hear from our state leadership about VVA's future.

We had a Memorial visitor from Chapter 1037, Charlotte, Florida. They left a note with a star from a retired U.S. flag. I've sent Chapter 1037 an email message thanking them for visiting and paying their respects. Speaking of the Memorial, the grounds are looking outstanding.

[Here's the link](#) for Vet Fest images -

Pig Roast is Saturday August 26th, noon to 5 pm at the Saline American Legion.

PS: Every path has a few puddles.

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## August 2023 Chaplain's Corner

By Rev. Gordon Moore



*Blessed is everyone that fears the Lord; that walks in his ways. For you shall eat the labor of your hands: happy you will be, and it shall be well with you. Your wife shall be as a fruitful vine by the sides of your house: your children like olive plants round about your table. Behold, that man shall be blessed that fears the Lord. The Lord shall bless you out of Zion: and you shall see the good of Jerusalem all the days of your life. Yes, you shall see your children's children, and peace upon Israel. (Psalm 128)*

*Bless the LORD, O MY SOUL;  
AND ALL THAT IS WITHIN ME,  
BLESS HIS HOLY NAME!*

*BLESS THE LORD, O MY SOUL,  
AND FORGET NOT ALL HIS BENEFITS:  
WHO FORGIVES ALL YOUR INIQUITIES,  
WHO HEALS ALL YOUR DISEASES,*

*WHO REDEEMS YOUR LIFE FROM DESTRUCTION,*

WHO CROWNS YOU WITH LOVINGKINDNESS AND  
TENDER MERCIES,  
WHO SATISFIES YOUR MOUTH WITH GOOD THINGS,  
SO THAT YOUR YOUTH IS RENEWED LIKE THE EAGLE'S.  
(PSALM 103:1-5)

*There is, therefore, now no condemnation to those who are in Christ Jesus, who do not walk according to the flesh, but according to the Spirit. For the law of the Spirit of life in Christ Jesus has made me free from the law of sin and death. For what the law could not do in that it was weak through the flesh, God did by sending His own Son in the likeness of sinful flesh, on account of sin: He condemned sin in the flesh, that the righteous requirement of the law might be fulfilled in us who do not walk according to the flesh but according to the Spirit.*

(ROMANS 8:1-4)

This month I thought it best to have us dwell on the Lord and his blessings and promises.

Peace be upon you!

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## Honoring August's Anniversaries on the Wall

**Lance Corporal Kendal Lee Benney, Jr.** was born on February 22, 1948, to Mr. and Mrs. Kendal L. Benney of Ypsilanti. Kendal lived with his father and stepmother in Big Rapids, Michigan until September of 1965, and after that, he attended Ypsilanti High School. He left Ypsilanti High School during his Junior year and enlisted in the Marine Corps in March of 1966.



Lance Corporal Kendal Lee Benney, Jr. began his tour of duty in Quang Nam Province, South Vietnam in December of 1966 serving with C Company, First Battalion, Seventh Marines, First Marine Division as a machine gunner. Kendal was killed on August 20, 1967, while standing watch when he suffered multiple fragmentation wounds from a bomb.

Lance Corporal Kendal Lee Benney, Jr. is survived by his mother, father, stepmother, two sisters and one

brother who was serving in South Vietnam when Kendal was killed. Kendal's brother was discharged from the Army and escorted his brother back to the "World" for internment. Kendal lived 19 years, 5 months, and 28 days. He is resting in the Altona Cemetery in Altona, Michigan. Kendal's name is listed on the Vietnam Memorial in Ypsilanti Township under Ypsilanti. His name also appears on the Vietnam Memorial in Washington, DC on Panel 25E Line 018.

—++—



**Private First Class James William Davis** was born on March 24, 1947, in Erie, Pennsylvania to Mr. and Mrs. William A. and Gretchen Raub Davis. James grew up in Belleville, Michigan, but lived in Ypsilanti. He is a 1965 graduate of Belleville High School where he lettered in football and swimming. James attended Michigan State

University and Cleary College. James was employed as a customer agent for Trans World Airlines at the Detroit Metropolitan Airport in Wayne, Michigan prior to entering the Marine Corps on December 13, 1968.

Private First Class Davis began his tour of duty in An Hoa, Quang Nam Province, South Vietnam on July 7, 1969, serving as a rifleman with I Company, 3rd Battalion, 5th Marines, 1st Marine Division. James was killed on August 13, 1969, because of small arms fire just one month and six days into his tour of duty "In-Country."

James William Davis is survived by his wife, an 11-month-old son, his parents, and two brothers. He lived 22 years, 4 months, and 10 days. He is resting in Washtenong Memorial Park in Ann Arbor, Michigan. James' name is listed on the Vietnam Memorial in Ypsilanti Township under Ypsilanti. His name also appears on the Vietnam Memorial in Washington, DC on Panel 19W Line 029.

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## Current Events

By Ann D. Pereira

10 Aug: Monthly Meetings: AVVA, 1800 hrs; VVA Board 1800 hrs; VVA General Mtg 1900 hrs

11 Aug: VVA 310 Monthly Breakfast, 0900 hrs

14 Aug: Planning Meeting for Pig Roast, 1500 hrs, Saline Legion Post 322

21 Aug: WCCV Meeting, 1930 hrs, American Legion Post 322, Saline

26 Aug: Pig Roast, 1200-1700 hrs, Saline American Legion Post 322

30 Aug: Ann Arbor American Legion 42 100th year dinner, Lawrence Morris Bldg WCC.

\*\* Visit Veterans Radio online ([veteransradio.net](http://veteransradio.net) - click here) and make a contribution to help keep this vital program on the air.

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## DISPATCH RECIPIENTS

VVA 310 award-winning newsletter reaches approximately 500 people each month with 100 mailed USPS, 50 hits off the website ([www.vva310.org](http://www.vva310.org)), and 350 emailed. With good stewardship and networking, the cost to print the *Dispatch* approximates \$1,250 per year.

If VVA 310 members or others receiving the *Dispatch* via USPS desire to assist with the printing cost, a suggested donation would be: one year at \$12.00, two years at \$22.00, and three years at \$30.00. Payment can be made payable to VVA 310 and mailed to P.O. Box 3221, Ann Arbor, MI 48106-3221 indicating *Dispatch* on the memo line.

All other donations may be made payable to VVA 310 at the same mailing address by indicating Donation on the memo line.

## RECIPIENTS

James Alford ~ December 2025

George Boone ~ February 2029

Berryman Bourne ~ August 2026

Cynthia Calhoun ~ April 2026

Gary L. Couture ~ April 2024

Edward Fuller ~ September 2023

Sarah and Brent Gephart, Sr. ~ March 2031

Corrine Gignac, in memory of her uncle Neil R. Gignac, CMSAF ~ April 2024

Stan Harrison to honor Russ Michalke ~ March 2026

Ralph Henry ~ November 2023

Steve and Shirley Hitte ~ June 2024

Ray Hunter ~ December 2032

Darlene Imus ~ January 2027

Jane and John Kinzinger ~ June 2024

Mary Kate Kirkpatrick ~ December 2023

Linda Lamey-Leonard, in memory of Lavern Lamey ~ July 2024

This KIA person is listed on our Memorial Wall.

Lloyd Lee ~ March 2031

David Marshall ~ June 2024

Sandy Martinez ~ November 2024

Del Mayes ~ March 2025

Alfred (Fredo) Merritt ~ March 2026

Ronald Oliver ~ August 2027

Paulo and Ann Dempsey Pereira ~ October 2024

George Perrault ~ October 2025

Bruce Ross ~ March 2028

Glenn Sakcriska ~ November 2026

Edith L. Semark ~ September 2023

Jim Sharp ~ April 2031

John C. Shook ~ July 2028

Larry St. Antoine ~ September 2025

Elizabeth Wong ~ September 2023

Hank Woods, in memory of Past President Paul S. Dumsch ~ September 2027

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**VVA 310 Chapter  
Meeting Minutes**

**Vietnam Veterans of America  
Charles S. Kettles Chapter 310  
Regular Membership Meeting Minutes  
13 July 2023**

**Call to Order** by President McCrumb at 1900 hrs.

**Pledge of Allegiance**

**Opening Prayer:** Bob Bull

**Moment of Silence** for POW/MIA'S, their families and those who are serving in hazardous places around the world.

**Roll Call:** A quorum was established. Welcome Home Everyone!

**New Members:** None

**Guests:** Paul Larned

**Motion:** Tim Clarke/Bob Bull to approve the June Minutes published in the *Dispatch*. Approved.

**President's Report:** I and several other Chapter members attended a legislative session at the capitol in Lansing where the House of Representatives approved the renaming of interstate highway I-94 from Rt. 23 to Rawsonville Road. The bill will be forwarded to the Senate for their approval.

**Treasurer's Report:** Berry Bourne. Reports were emailed to the Board. Also available to members via email on request. Non-restricted fund: Merchandise team realized \$403 revenue at the VA and \$1,150 was received to support the Pig Roast. \$593 was prepaid for expenses to attend the National Convention. Restricted Funds: \$6,300 was received from Ann Arbor Area Community Foundation to support capital expenditures at the Vietnam Memorial and \$2,000 was paid to add another required irrigation line at the Memorial. \$1,293 was paid for reprint of book titled *We Answered The Call* and \$1,288 was expended for underwear for Ann Arbor VAMC Hospital patients.

**AVVA Report:** Please see the report in the *Dispatch*.

**Committee Reports:**

**Merchandise:** Stan Harrison stated that \$220 merchandise sales were realized at the Autorama at Camp Liberty. Sales will also be made at the Vets Fest on July 22.

**Washtenaw County Council of Veterans:** Bob Bull, Commander, stated that they are working on drafting a very inclusive letter of welcome. VFW Post 423 will host the next meeting for this coming Monday.

**Michigan State Council:** No report

**Memorial Maintenance:** It was stated that the site looks good. A question arose about a private service held last Saturday for a Vietnam Veteran who was not a Chapter member. There was no prearrangement made with Fredo. We need to review and strengthen communication surrounding events of this type.

**Website:** Approximately 378,900 hits since inception

**Membership:** 212

**Newsletter:** No report

**Health Care:** No report.

**LTCCSKMC:** Jane Kinzinger stated that John Kinzinger received in Washington, DC an award from Daughters of the American Revolution as National DAR Veteran Volunteer of the Year. Jane further thanked all those who provided support at the Camp Liberty Car Show.

**Old Business:** None

**New Business:** Vance McCrumb stated that there is available a used Apple MacBook Air laptop that was used to prepare the *Dispatch*. Stan Harrison made a motion seconded by Tim Clarke to give the laptop to Tim Driscoll so Kathy Driscoll can use for the AVVA duties. Approved.

**Good of the Order:**

**Martha Cothorn** – She stated that her eight-year-old granddaughter has qualified for the AAU National Junior Olympics in the 800m and 1,500m.

**Berry Bourne** – Asked on behalf of Al (Fredo) Merritt if anyone would like to accept the responsibility for handling the Chapter jacket ordering.

**Bob Bull** – Vet Fest is this Saturday, July 22nd, from 1000-1500 hrs. at Washtenaw Community College with many Veteran's service organizations plus others scheduled to be there. He has planned a sock drive of white or black socks during August/September to present to patients at the Ann Arbor VAMC.

**Tim Driscoll** – He stated that Veterans Radio had their 1,000<sup>th</sup> program last Sunday.

**Chapter Breakfast August 11th** – TBD

**Closing Prayer:** Bob Bull

**Flag Salute**

**Meeting Adjourned** at 1945 hrs.

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## AVVA Newsletter August 2023

By Kathy Driscoll

### Membership Report:

AVVA 310 has 32 members. If you would like to join AVVA 310, please contact Kathy Driscoll. AVVA has changed their membership dues. There is no longer a 3-year membership.

[https://www.avva.org/forms/membership/new\\_memberapp\\_2022.pdf](https://www.avva.org/forms/membership/new_memberapp_2022.pdf)

1 Year \$20; Lifetime membership \$100\*. \*There is a Lifetime Membership payment plan of \$25 down / \$25 monthly until paid in full. VVA Dual membership \$50. We welcome Ken Rogge as a Dual Member.

### Chapter Happenings!

- VVA 310 Pig Roast – Saturday, August 26<sup>th</sup>. Please plan to support this VVA 310 fundraiser. AVVA 310 receives the proceeds from one of the 50/50 raffles at the Pig Roast.

- AVVA 310 sponsored a table for the Ann Arbor American Legion Post 46 100th Anniversary at Washtenaw Community College. If you plan to attend, please contact Dave Draper.

### AVVA Chapter 310 Fundraising Report

- We have 60 donated Wrist Story Bracelets left. Suggested donation is \$5. When we sellout, we will donate an additional \$300 to Fisher House Michigan. Contact Kathy Driscoll if you would like one. All proceeds will go to Fisher House Michigan.
- I emailed out our Annual No Bake/Bakeless Fundraiser to our members. This is our main source funding our chapter. Please consider donating. I am mailing out fundraiser letters to our members without email address.

### Service Projects

- Please consider donating food to your local community food banks. Our communities still have families who are food insecure due to Covid 19 and other economic circumstances.

Links to local Food Banks:

Saline Social Services:

<https://www.salinesocialservice.com/ways-to-give/donate/>

Food Gatherers of Ann Arbor:

<https://www.foodgatherers.org/?module=Page&SID=donate-funds>

SOS Community Services Ypsilanti, MI:

<https://soscs.org/ways-to-give/>

Catholic Social Services

<https://csswashtenaw.org/family-children/cssw-food-pantry/>

Google Search for Food Banks in Washtenaw County:

<https://www.google.com/search?client=firefox-b-1-d&q=washtenaw+county+food+banks>

### Lois Perrault Memorial Fund – 2023 Girls’ State Update!

The fund balance is \$3,308.25.

### AVVA National and AVVA Michigan State Association News

I attended the July 23rd AVVA Michigan State Association meeting in Waterford, MI. We reviewed the change proposals to the AVVA National Bylaws and Policies and Procedures.

I will be our voting delegate at the AVVA National Convention in Orlando, FL in August.

### WCCV

I attended the July 17th meeting at the Saline American Legion Post 322. I plan to attend the August 21st meeting. It will be held at the Saline American Post 322

**Keep up to date:** AVVA and VVA 310 events are posted on the homepage of [www.vva310.org](http://www.vva310.org).

**Chapter 310 proudly supports the AVVA Mission and Vision Statements. AVVA Mission Statement:** To provide support to Veterans and their families through programs, projects, and education.

**AVVA Vision Statement:** To create a better everyday life for Veterans and their families.

Kathy Driscoll -- [dkathyr16@gmail.com](mailto:dkathyr16@gmail.com) -- 734-355-4897.

# Remembering Gary Lillie

*A Series by John Kinzinger*

*This is the third in a series of writings by deceased, longtime active Chapter member Gary Lillie (Seabee, Vietnam). Remembering Gary, Veteran advocate and friend to all Veterans. Recall that, when we came home after military service, there was no Facebook or other IT ways of locating people. I think all of us who served in Vietnam or anywhere have felt the desire to reconnect with a military friend of old. This poem describes some of those feelings.*

## My Squad

By Gary Lillie, MCB-3, Chu Lai, 1966

I've spent a lot of time looking for you,

My squad.

Having those thoughts about you

Brings smiles to my face.

Sometimes I laugh out loud in a quiet room.

It brings funny looks from my friends,

But they don't know where I have been,

Just now and back then.

They don't know what it's like to have brothers.

Oh, they might have one or more from their mothers,

But not like the ones in my squad.

My brothers, my squad, my men--

"The Saturday Night Fights"

Is what we were named

'cause we have a few spats,

And they always seemed to happen on Saturday night.

"We work hard, and we play hard," we liked to say--

And sometimes the playing got carried away.

But don't mess with my squad.

We were tight, my men.

Gillette Blue Blades would not have sponsored us,

Not our Saturday Night Fights.

They wouldn't have gone to the places we'd been,

Me and my squad back in Vietnam.

I know you're out there, my squad, my men.

I keep trying to find you.

And when I do, it'll be fun--

But where in the hell are you,

My squad, my men,

Yes, you were men, my squad,

All of you!

Even though you were only nineteen,

And I was the old one,

Turned twenty-five over there,

You called me "old man"--

Me and my squad leader Lupe.

He was the same age as I was back then,

And if he made it,

He's still the same age as I am.

I just got a late start on you guys.

How much more you had seen by the time

You were nineteen!

You're out there!

Scotty's in Oregon (I hope, Amen);

Jake the Jew is in Minnesota.

Gunn, L.R. Smith, Fat Willy, "Cassius" Clay,

Little Joe, where are you?

I thought I had Larsen one day on the phone.

When he answered the phone, I got dizzy;

And nearly cried.

Then the son of a bitch said,

"No, I'm a World War II vet.

Hope you find your friend, son.

It'll be fun when you do.

Good luck and God speed."

He was a nice guy.



It was just the crushing disappointment.

Nearly did me in.

Doherty's a funny story.

If you're the phone company,

I called every Dave Doherty in California

With a listed phone.

Thought he might have settled down there--

Him and the girl he fell in love with

When we got back home.

He was from Boston,

My man.

But that little Italian girl turned his head around,

Her and her eggplant parmesan.

So, I started calling them all--

Started down south in L.A.

Then worked my way up

North of Monterey Bay,

And kept going to the edge of Oregon.

"Are you the Dave Doherty

I served with in Nam?"

Couldn't find you, Dave,

But I found an old tape in a trunk one day--

One we made for my friends back home,

To introduce my squad to them.

Your voice, it was as I remembered, but

When the hell did you change your name to Bill?

Oh well, back to the phones.

Better luck this time!

I know I'll find you,

And when I do,

I hope I find the rest of them, too.

It'll be fun!

My squad,

My friends,

My forever friends,

My men.

\*\*\*\*\*



**Jocosity**

By Ken Rogge

After serving his company loyally for over 30 years, he happily retired. Several years later, the company contacted him regarding a seemingly impossible problem they were having with one of their multi-million-dollar machines. They had tried everything and everyone else to get the machine fixed, to no avail. In desperation, they called on the retired engineer, who had solved so many of their problems in the past.

The engineer reluctantly took the challenge. He spent a day studying the huge machine. At the end of the day, he marked a small "x" in chalk on a particular component of the machine and proudly stated, "This is where your problem is." The part was replaced, and once again the machine worked perfectly.

The company received a bill for \$50,000 from the engineer for his service. They demanded an itemized accounting of his charges.

The engineer responded briefly:

One chalk mark: \$1

Knowing where to put it: \$49,999

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# Celebrating the Vet Fest 2023

Submitted by Vance McCrumb and Dave Draper

More About Vet Fest 2023



[Click on photo to watch landing.]

Enjoying the Vet Fest.



General William Henderson

Military equipment (below: Remembering/sharing

Cooking at Vet Fest 2023



# Veterans Family Health Issues

Submitted by Van McCrumb

*[Attached is a section of a well-written piece by our own Sandie Wilson on Veteran's family health issues related to toxic exposure. Sandie said this is chapter 1 because she didn't want to make it too long. So, look for chapter 2 in a later issue.]*

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It has now been 45 years that a group of us has been working on getting something resolved for the health issues of your children related to your military service. Most men took the approach of not needing health care, that was a woman task. Also, 99 percent of the Vietnam era children are now adults. Why worry? Time solves everything. Take 2 pills and it will be better. The problem is that not every health problem gets resolved. Many last a lifetime.

Some of you had adult children follow in the parent's footsteps and served in the Middle East or other contaminated areas. Our government leaders said this would not be a repeat of Vietnam. True, they did not expose this military to the 7 forever toxins used during Vietnam. But they were exposed to 21 other toxins. That means you can have grandchildren with birth defects resulting from the parent exposure to 28 different toxins. When someone in your family becomes pregnant, are you increasing your prayers for the next 9 months?

I am requesting you take ACTION. If you are a veteran told you were not entitled to benefits, the situation has changed. Your retired income is probably small enough to qualify for VA health care. Sign up today. If you believe you were exposed, sign up for the toxic exposure registry. You are likely now on medications. VA delivery is a cost-savings service to which you are entitled. The VA health care is a joint effort with Michigan Medicine and is outstanding.

VVA has a Service Rep at the VA Hospital. The Washtenaw County Veterans Department has outstanding Service Reps. With the increase in presumptive diseases, get your available disability rating increased. This will help you and your dependent today and in the future. Champ V is there for dependents even after you transfer to the other side of the grass.

VVA has been meeting with the Air Force, VA, NIH about the "Ranch Hand" research specimens for over a year. A decision was made to transfer these 93 million body specimens to a medical storage facility. Medical researchers will have access to the specimens and the original data. This means current researchers will be able to access 30 years of longitudinal data. The Prostate Cancer researchers are overjoyed.

A medical research statistician has published a vetted report on the birth defects obtained from the "Ranch Hand" data prior to its being "cleaned-up" by the liars in government. That report closely matches the data in the Birth Defects Registry that veterans have utilized for the past 30 years.

In lobbying our Congresspersons, the first comment from this is, "show me the research that proves your issue." We spent 8 years educating veterans and pushing Congress to get a law requiring research on toxic exposure for children and grandchildren of veterans. President Obama signed the law. The first step, a feasibility study, was done by NIH. During the Trump administration, no progress.

VVA sent a letter to the current VA Secretary urging the research to be done. The Secretary responded it could not be done because there was not a national birth defect registry.

He was partially right. There is not a government sponsored national birth defects registry. In the 1980s, 41 states had statewide birth defects registries. Today 10, states claim to have statewide registries paid for by the Center for Disease Control. Each state determines its own procedure. In 1994, the federal government issued a policy that each state would list any birth defect the child was noted to have on the birth certificate. If it is on the birth certificate, it is a structural defect noted on the examination at birth. In addition, each state takes cord blood specimens to detect conditions that develop later but can be treated before they appear. Most states test for 7 diseases. Michigan tests for 25 diseases.

[TO BE CONTINUED]

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# All About VVA 310

Vietnam Veterans of America  
Charles S. Kettles Chapter 310  
National Chapter of the Year:  
1999 & 2007  
Newsletter of the Year:  
2007, 2009, 2011, & 2015  
E-Newsletter of the Year 2017

Chapter President: Vance McCrumb  
Vice President: Marv Rivers  
Secretary: Jon Luker  
Treasurer: Berry Bourne  
Chapter Membership: Vance McCrumb  
Sergeant at Arms: Eric Downie  
Chaplain: Rev. Gordon Moore  
Dispatch Editor: Paulo Pereira

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Please forward. Thank you!

